

Message Text

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60

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 EB-11

COME-00 TRSE-00 FPC-01 AID-20 INT-08 SCEM-02 RSR-01

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R 162019 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4459

INFO USCINCSO

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS MONTEVIDEO 1505

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, UY

PALMAR HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

REF: MONTEVIDEO 1192

1. PRESIDENT BORDABERRY ANNOUNCED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 15 THAT GOU WOULD DEFINITELY UNDERTAKE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PALMAR HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT. PROJECT IS TO BE ADMINISTERED BY COMMISSION (COMISION MIXTA DEL PALMAR, OR COMIPAL) MADE UP OF THREE MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES AND ONE REPRESENTATIVE EACH FROM MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE, MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, AND OFFICE PLANNING BUDGET, PLUS NON-VOTING REPRESENTATIVE OF URUGUAYAN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION. DECRESS ESTABLISHING COMIPAL ALSO SETS UP ADVISORY BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES OF SEVERAL GOU AGENCIES AND STATE INTERPRISES.

2. MILITARY IS TO HAVE MAJOR ROLE IN CONSTRUCTION OF PROJECT, WHICH ANNOUNCEMENT SAYS WILL BE COMPLETED IN 1978. TOTAL UNCLASSIFIED

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COST OF PROJECT GIVEN AS \$110 MILLION, OF WHICH \$60 MILLION IS TO REPRESENT FOREIGN EXCHANGE COSTS. WORK ON THE PROJECT IS TO BEGIN BY THE END OF 1973.

3. THE PROJECT, WHICH WOULD INVOLVE ABOUT 300 MEGAWATTS OF CAPACITY, IS LOCATED ON THE LOWER RIO NEGRO. IT HAS BEEN UNDER PERIODIC CONSIDERATION BY THE GOU SINCE THE EARLY SIXTIES, BUT A LACK OF ADEQUATE FINANCING HAS ALWAYS PREVENTED UNDERTAKING OF THE PROJECT IN THE PAST. PRESIDENT SAID SALTO GRANDE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT WILL BE CONSTRUCTED ALONG WITH PALMAR, AND MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, WHO SHARED ANNOUNCEMENT WITH PRESIDENT, ADDED THAT URUGUAY WILL NOT NEGLECT ITS THERMOELECTRIC REQUIREMENTS.

4. MISSION COMMENTS ON ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSAL WILL FOLLOW BY AIRGRAM. MEANWHILE WE SUGGEST COMMERCE ALERT U. S. FIRMS THAT MIGHT BE INTERESTED, SOME OF WHICH WE UNDERSTAND HAVE SAO PAULO OFFICES.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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30 JUN 2005

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